California GARDEN

FORTY-SEVENTH YEAR | AUTUMN, 1956 | VOL. 47, NO. 3

Eucalypts on Miramar Mesa

Photograph by Richard Dixon

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Wanted: Back issues of California Garden from 1909 to 1916 and Spring, 1952. Please send to Miss Alice M. Greer for files.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Visitors Always Welcome

Floral Building will be open every Tuesday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., when our president, Mrs. Kenneally, will be available for consultation

Saturday, September 8, Floral Building 1 to 3:30 p.m.
San Diego Rose Society will sponsor a series of six lectures by Dr. M. M. Thompson, Professor of Floriculture at U.C.L.A., and one of the Southland's outstanding rose authorities. The course will cover the complete culture of roses from the ground up. After the first session, meetings will be held every second Saturday in various gardens in order to make practical demonstrations. The series will end November 17. The course is $6.00. For further information call Mrs. Cosby, AT 4-1233.

Tuesday, September 18 . . 6:30 p.m.
First fall meeting of the San Diego Floral Association.
Box supper at Rosecroft Begonia Gardens, 510 Silvergate Ave.
Open forum discussion and garden tour by our hosts, the Hunters.

Tuesday, October 16 . . 8:00 p.m.
Regular meeting of the San Diego Floral Association in the Floral Building.
Speaker: Mrs. Mildred Davis, instructor in Hort., U.C.L.A.
Subject: Perennials in Southern California.

Saturday and Sunday, October 27, 28
48th ANNUAL FALL CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW in the Floral Building, featuring chrysanthemum plants and arrangements.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, October 29, 30 and 31
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Garden Clubs — Notice

Affiliate membership in the San Diego Floral Association is available to all garden clubs within the city limits of San Diego. Annual dues of $10.00 entitles an affiliate to representation on the executive board of the Floral Association, two subscriptions to California Garden, and week-end flower shows in the Floral Building. An additional fee of $15.00, for the building maintenance fund, entitles an organization to the use of the building for meetings and to the use of another building in the park for a flower show. Garden clubs interested are asked to write a letter petitioning affiliate membership.

Membership in the San Diego Floral Association includes a subscription to California Garden. Classification of memberships: Annual, $3.00; Family, $5.00; Sustaining, $5.00; Contributing, $25.00, and Life Membership, $100.00. Memberships and gifts are deductible from income tax.

California Garden

FORTY-SEVENTH YEAR AUTUMN, 1956 VOL. 47, NO. 3

A Landscape for Kate Sessions

JANE MINSHALL

On May 10th of this year a new elementary school was dedicated, named Kate Sessions School in honor of a teacher and horticulturist to whom San Diego owes much. Built on a slope back of Pacific Beach, the school is located almost directly above the site of Miss Sessions' nursery. While plans for the buildings were being developed, I decided that through landscaping of the school site we had an opportunity to pay further tribute to the lifelong work of Kate Sessions. By using materials that she introduced to this area and those that she felt should be more widely planted, I hoped that children and visitors to the school would, through seeing the plantings, appreciate how much Miss Sessions did to make our city a more beautiful place.

Landscaping plans have been developed and work has been completed. By no means will we have a complete collection of Kate Sessions' introductions and favorite plants. Some of them would be unsuitable for use around a school and some would not be happy in this particular environment. However, I like to think that Kate Sessions would be pleased to see so many of her favorites.

She was particularly interested in South African plants, believing that with the similarity of climate they should do well here, and many of her introductions are from that area. Although *Strelitzia regina,* or Bird of Paradise, had been grown here for some years, she was the first in San Diego to propagate it from seed. This seed she brought from France. We are rather featuring the Strelitzia in a long planter box at the main entrance to the school. Also in the planter box is another African introduction, Agapanthus, the Blue Lily of the Nile. Another South African which Kate Sessions introduced to the nursery trade in San Diego, and a special favorite of mine, is *Grewia caffra*, a shrub covered with lavender star-like flowers all the warm months of the year. This versatile shrub is being planted to grow flat against a wall and also as a ground cover. Miss Sessions saw great possibilities in the many brilliantly flowered South African mesembryanthemums, for she knew that they would add lots of color with a minimum of water. We are planting several varieties as ground covers, to give color and to prevent soil erosion on the slopes that surround the site. Miss Sessions was greatly interested not only in mesembryanthemums, but in succulents in general. The yellow flowering *Sedum confusum* will add a dash of color at the base of the long planter box.

Australia, another country with a climate similar to ours, had trees Miss Sessions knew would feel at home in San Diego. She was enthusiastic about *Eucalyptus citriodora,* the Lemon Gum, a white barked, graceful variety. She also encouraged the planting of *Eucalyptus ficifolia,* the Flame Eucalypt, most brilliantly flowered of the eucalypts. These are being planted on a slope. Kate Sessions urged the planting of various types of acacias for winter and spring color. We are using one of her favorites, Pearl Acacia, for its early yellow bloom and also *Acacia longifolia* on a steep slope to assist in holding the soil.

Kate Sessions was interested in a greater use of drought resistant plants, from Australia—and from our own hills. *Fremontia californica* had been discovered by General Fremont around 1850. In 1917, Miss Sessions introduced to the nursery trade another variety, *Fremontia mexicana.* This fremontia has showy golden blooms and will be planted at Sessions School with other California natives. Though not discovered by Kate Sessions, she introduced to our gardens the Matilija Poppy, a shrub native to this county as well as to Mexico and north to Santa Barbara. The crepe-papery, snowy-white flowers with golden centers strongly resemble fried eggs! The native shrub possibly most closely connected with Kate Sessions is *Ceanothus cyaneus* or San Diego Lilac, discovered on a hillside north of Lakeside by Myrtle Philbrook and first propagated and grown by Miss Sessions. It was the first ceanothus to be readily available for garden use. Because of its temperamental nature we will include only a very few. We plan to plant in greater quantity the hybrid Ceanothus Mountain

Haze, which has *Ceanothus cyaneus* as one parent and which has inherited the same cornflower-blue color. Another drought resistant plant introduction Miss Sessions liked, this one a native of the Canary Islands and Madeira, is *Echium fastuosum*, with gray green leaves and dramatic spikes of blue flowers.

Kate Sessions introduced two junipers to this area and used them widely in her landscaping. *Juniperus torulosa*, Twisted Juniper, she planted throughout the Bird Rock-La Jolla area and many of those fine old specimens can be seen there today. One of the first plantings was at The Bishop's School in La Jolla. We are using one Twisted Juniper as an accent at the east end of the assembly-cafeteria building. She also introduced an excellent prostrate juniper, the Shore Juniper, *Juniperus conferta*, which we have planted to hang over the long planter box, and are also using as a ground cover. It is one of the finest-textured and flattest-growing of the junipers.

Kate Sessions visited the Hawaiian Islands several times and was much impressed by the colorful hibiscus she saw there. She loved color and firmly believed that more flowering trees and flowering shrubs such as the hibiscus should be grown here. We are planting what is to my mind one of the most beautiful varieties —Hibiscus Kate Sessions.

The vines were many that Kate Sessions enthusiastically "pushed." Both the Star Jasmine and the Carolina Jessamine are being used in the planter box, the latter to be trained up a column and along the roof. She was fond of *Bignonia cherere,* and this will be planted on the fence of the kindergarten play area where the children can enjoy its bright color. Another flamboyant vine which will give color to a playground fence is one introduced by Kate Sessions—Bougainvillea Crimson Lake. This area will have all the color she could desire, with the bougainvilleas, flowering eucalypts and blue ceanothus.

A tree we associate closely with Miss Sessions and one which she gave to this area, is *Tipuana speciosa,* or Tipu Tree. Many know it as The Kate Sessions Tree, that fine specimen so labeled, which she planted around 1920 on Balboa Ave. in Pacific Beach. This South American tree with its showy yellow pea flowers will be planted in a prominent spot near the kindergartens. Another of her tree introductions was the carob, a handsome shade tree from Eastern Mediterranean regions which we are planting near the sand box in the kindergarten play area. For years a South African tree, *Podocarpus elongata* or Fern Pine, had been grown as a tubbed house plant. Kate Sessions was among the first to suggest that this graceful, willowy plant should be grown as a street and shade tree. The many beautiful old specimens in Mission Hills, on First Avenue and in La Jolla bear out how right she was. A podocarpus will give beauty to the court north of the principal's office.

In addition to the many plants that Miss Sessions introduced or "pushed" in the nursery trade, we are planting, because they are such reliables, old timers such as *Pittosporum tobira*, Viburnum, Boxwood, English Ivy and Ivy-leaf Geranium. Also, because they are fine plants for school landscaping, or any landscaping for that matter, we are planting several varieties which have become popular since Kate Sessions' time. Xylosma is one, a shrub with lustrous foliage, thriving in sun or shade. Miss Sessions knew and admired two varieties of *Raphiolepis, indica* and *ovata.* Since her time many named varieties have been developed and one of the nicest is called Springtime, with pink flowers and light bronzy new growth. Springtime will be planted in the court with the podocarpus.

The list of plants associated in some way with Kate Sessions is virtually endless, for she was interested in all. The sign by the Kate Sessions Tipuana Tree in Pacific Beach reads: "Her entire life was spent in the search for finer plants." We have only to look about us to realize how very much San Diego owes to this remarkable woman.

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Leaves from The Observer's Notebook

MARION ALMY LIPPITT

Henry regarded me appraisingly. "Why are your eyes looking like stars? he inquired, looking over the rim of his glasses as if he were listening with his eyes instead of his ears.

"Autumn, and trees in autumn coloring," I answered.

"What brought that on?"

"Trouble with Harry."

"Harry who?" demanded Henry.

"I can't remember his last name."

My evasiveness evidently tried Henry's patience. At best he dislikes mysteries of any kind. This accounts for his avoidance of all whodunits in books, TV, and the movies. Knowing this, I wondered how I was going to get him to see Alfred Hitchcock's delightfully amusing movie "Trouble with Harry."

In laying the groundwork for a painless acceptance of my plan, I ignored Henry's question and began, "Imagine yourself walking up the farm road after a Fall rain. The road is covered with wet golden maple leaves. Your steps are marked by a slapping sound."

"Or a rustle—when the leaves are dry," volunteered Henry, falling neatly into my trap of stirred memories. "One never outgrows scuffing dry leaves, does one?" Henry sighed wistfully.

Not to lose the momentum of the mood I lapsed into a quiet dreaminess. "Think of the noiseless sound of a falling leaf and the nostalgia that envelopes one with the smell of burning leaves."

Henry's expression showed that he had melted within, so I moved to clinch my scheme.

"You'll see it all in the movie 'Trouble with Harry'." I did not dare even risk telling him that it was a whodunit farce, so I said, "The whole picture is backgrounded by Fall scenery in Vermont."

Henry was won. Vermont is close enough to Rhode Island to rate consideration.

"The girls and I could go this evening," figured Henry with knitted brows.

"Please, may I be considered one of the girls?" I asked.

"You and the boys saw it on Saturday."

Seeing a movie twice savors of extravagance in Henry's way of life.

"Please," I coaxed. "May I see it again? I want to feel immersed in a New England autumn?"

Henry gazed beyond me as he spoke, "Remember the autumn you went East just to see Fall coloring?"

"Too well," I replied ruefully. "There I was and there wasn't any Fall coloring. Overnight, that year, the foliage turned from green to a sodden faded brown. I came home sad and disheartened."

"And then?" pursued Henry.

"Well, then you met me at San Bernardino and drove me up to Lake Arrowhead."

"Now, it can be told!"

"Yes," I agreed. "And in full. The coloring was simply perfect. The dark green pointed firs rivaled those in Maine, and they were interspersed with red and gold maples any Eastern state would claim with pride. The high light came when you said, 'Too bad you didn't save your money and stay here. California has everything!' "

"Did you know that California is the one State in the Union that could support itself if it were cut off from the rest of the world? And did you ever read THE CALIFORNIACS, by Inez Irwin?"

"Long ago," I replied, "It was published about 1916, wasn't it?"

"Even so," replied Henry, "but wait," he added peremptorily, as if I were going to drop everything and take off immediately for the East. He disappeared into his special room containing his treasured pictures and books. As usual, he had a favorite passage to share.

An Argyle sock claimed my knitting attention until Henry returned looking bright-eyed and bushy-tailed. He sat down and read with unconcealed enthusiasm:

"California, which produces the maximum of scenery and the minimum of weather; California which grows the biggest men, trees, vegetables and fleas in the world, and the most beautiful women, babies, flowers and fruit . . . California where everybody is born beautiful and nobody grows old . . . that California is populated mainly with Californiacs . . . The Californiac is unable to talk about anything but California . . . He looks with pity on anybody born outside of California and he believes that no one who has ever been in California willingly lives elsewhere."

"Shall I go on?" questioned Henry, looking so like a run-away pony with the bit in his teeth that I knew it would be impossible to stop him.

"Yes," I said eagerly, "the more the better."

He continued:

"This, for instance, may happen to you at any time in California—it is the Californiac's way of paying the greatest tribute he knows; 'Do you know,' somebody says, 'I should never guess you were an Easterner . . . You are quite like

(Please turn to Page 13)

Trees Make the Subdivision

M. R. Marston

One of the problems which faces a home owner in a new subdivision or tract is that of getting trees planted in the parkways in front of the homes. Most people find that the planting of such trees not only greatly enhances the beauty of the neighborhood but also increases the value of the properties far beyond the cost of the trees.

About a year ago, we bought a home on Manhasset Drive in College View Estates. In talking with our new neighbors we discovered that many of us were anxious to lose that stark shadeless aspect which goes with new real estate developments. We inquired about tree planting and learned that there is a certain routine which must be followed to accomplish this, and this article is being written in the hopes that the author's experience will be helpful to others who wish to accomplish the same result.

Any program for obtaining parkway trees must necessarily start with a visit to the office of the Supervisor of Street Trees, in the Administration Bldg., Balboa Park, on Laurel Street, just west of the Museum of Man. This office, as part of the Park and Recreation Department of the City of San Diego, specifies the types of trees which may be planted and their locations in the parkways.

Each home owner can obtain his own permit, purchase his own trees, and plant them himself if he so desires. However, this is seldom satisfactory because, in general, there will be individuals in the neighborhood who will not take the trouble to do this, so the effect becomes patchy and the overall appearance of the neighborhood is less attractive. The result is much more gratifying to everyone if the tree planting is undertaken on a group basis.

To accomplish this, however, it is necessary for one person on the block or in the neighborhood to take the initiative, and to assume the responsibility for seeing to it that the trees are arranged for and planted. This individual should then make a quick spot check with the neighbors to determine their feelings in the matter in order to discover whether the project has a chance of success or not. If it appears that the neighbors are interested then he may proceed in the following manner:

A visit is made to the Supervisor of Street Trees to obtain an application for a permit to plant trees in the parkways of each of the houses in the area under consideration. One application for permit is sufficient for any number of properties. The Supervisor of Street Trees will also indicate what type of tree it is permissible to plant in the particular area involved, naming two or three alternatives. If these several alternatives are presented to the people on the block, the chances are that instead of getting agreement on a single type of tree to be planted in the block, there will be a half dozen people favoring each of the three alternatives. It is very important, then, for the organizer to make the decision as to which tree will be best, and to suggest this one alone to the people in the neighborhood. His judgment, guided by the Supervisor of Street Trees, will be sound, and he will find it infinitely easier to get the agreement of his neighbors.

The next step is to determine the cost and availability of the trees. This can be done by contacting some reputable nurseries, and again the promoter of the project should use his own best judgment as to the nursery to be selected. This removes a source of argument and differences of opinion among the rest of the people on the block. It is possible, of course, that someone in the area may have excellent contacts with a particular nursery and be able to obtain a discount, and the promoter should be sure that if such an opportunity is available full advantage is taken of it. Most nurseries can supply trees suitable for parkway planting at prices between $3.00 and $4.00.

Since most nurseries do not do the actual planting of the trees, the promoter can now present his project to his neighbors on the basis that each individual will plant his own trees, at a consequently lower cost, or he can present a proposal which will include the planting of the trees. In the latter case it will be necessary for him to find an independent landscape gardner or contractor who will do the planting, with a firm bid for the work. Either approach is possible, but it is the writer's personal belief that most people would prefer to have someone else plant the trees than go to the trouble of digging the relatively large holes themselves, particularly if the local soil is largely adobe, which is quite probable in the San Diego area.

The procedure that follows is for the promoter to prepare a sheet of blank paper with a statement at the top which might read thus:

"I agree to accept and pay for parkway trees of the type designated by the Supervisor of Street Trees, at a net price of $4.75 per tree planted, the number of trees to be paid for by me to be in accordance with the instructions of the Supervisor of Street Trees, who will stake the parkway on my property to indicate the proper location of such trees."

The next step is for the promoter, or his wife, to call on each of the families in the neighborhood and obtain their signature to the above statement. This individual discussion with each home owner is time-consuming, and requires perhaps a certain amount of salesmanship, but it seems to be the only way of getting complete agreement in the neighborhood. The obtaining of the signatures as outlined above is, of course, the only protection the promoter has to insure that he will get the money to pay for the trees and the planting. Once the signatures of all the home owners in the area have been obtained, the process becomes relatively simple.

The next step is to arrange with the Supervisor of Street Trees to have the area staked for the proper location of the trees. This will be done usually two days before the date arranged for the actual planting because experience has shown that children in the neighborhood will move the stakes or destroy them if more time is given.

Ordinarily there will be two trees on the average 60 to 70′ lot. In some cases one tree is sufficient, usually on corner lots, and there may be rare instances where three trees will be required.

Once the arrangements have been made for the staking, the nursery should then be called to plan to deliver the trees, preferably on the date the stakes are set in place. Contact must also be made with the landscape gardener or contractor, so he will plant the trees on the day following their delivery.

Usually the planting contractor will wish to be paid immediately on completion of the planting, and it is therefore advisable for the promoter to collect from the individual home owners a day or two in advance of the actual planting.

When the job is done your neighborhood should be much more attractive with the handsome young parkway trees in place. In the writer's opinion, their presence will increase the value of the individual properties far beyond the approximate cost of $5.00 per tree, and certainly the improvement in the appearance of the neighborhood justifies the small expense. We think the 33 Shamel Ash trees, *Fraxinus udhei,* on Manhassett Drive are a distinct asset to the street.

Perhaps a word of caution is in order. Although the trees authorized are in general fast-growing types, you should not expect to have full fledged shade trees in a matter of months. It is well to advise everyone in the neighborhood to expect it to take at least five years before the trees grow to a reasonable size and develop sufficient foliage to provide an appreciable amount of shade. Most trees planted in parkways are from 5 to 8′ in height and look spindly because they are very young. However, given a big planting hole for a good start, with a minimum of care, they will grow rapidly into very desirable ornaments for the neighborhood.

All of the above procedure may seem somewhat formidable to one who has never attempted it, but having just been through the experience, I can assure those who may wish to undertake the project that if the above guide is followed the job is really not too difficult. In addition to providing trees for the neighborhood, it gives the promoter an excellent opportunity to know his neighbors better. In my own experience, it also was very pleasing to find how willing and cooperative most people are in an endeavor of this kind. I would heartily recommend the undertaking of this project to anyone who is really interested in improving his immediate neighborhood.

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SAN LUIS REY MISSION PIONEER PEPPER TREES IN 1887

Pioneer Pepper Tree

WINIFRED DAVIDSON

Thousands — perhaps all — of California's old pepper trees are descendants of a pair of pioneers, one of which survives in a garden at Mission San Luis Rey. This is the species, *Schinus molle,* described by our Roland Hoyt in ORNAMENTAL PLANTS FOR SUBTROPICAL REGIONS, as round-headed "with wide spreading gnarled limbs from a short knotty trunk; the pendant branchlets are plentifully supplied with much refined, light green leaves, frequently trailing to the ground; the generous clusters of light rose-colored rattling berries are very ornamental in season—."

H. H. Bancroft tells us that a trapper, David E. Jackson, arrived at the Presidio of San Diego in 1831 with "nine hired men and a negro slave." One member of the party, Jonathan Trumbull Warner of Lyme, Connecticut, remained here. He was later known to all Californians as Don Juan Jose, Don Juan Flaco, and Long John of Warner's Hot Springs. He was 24 when he met Padre Antonio Petri, founder and builder of San Luis Rey, "King of the Missions," who told him of a sailor who had given him a packet of unnamed seeds from Peru.

According to Charles F. Saunders in TREES AND SHRUBS OF CALIFORNIA GARDENS, Fr. Petri left California in January 1832, but not before sowing the almost forgotten seeds in the Mission enclosure. Then one day, "to the astonishment of everybody, there appeared a thriving crop of trig little Trees of Peru."

An unsubstantiated account says that the saplings were set out in front of the Mission corridor but that visitors and Indian vaqueros hitched their mounts to them and, as a result of outrageous abuse, all but two trees died. Frosts of 1913 are said to have killed off one of the survivors leaving the gnarled old specimen that still stands near the western wall of the outer garden.

Chapter Four of Saunder's book is entitled "The Pepper Tree, the Medicine Chest of Old Peru." It is beautifully informative in presenting this one-time most popular of foreign botanical importations, but historically it needs a bit of editing. Fr. Petri left before the *Shinus molle* matured. The sailor who gave him the seeds has never been identified.

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Why I Grow Orchids

RUTH C. MILLER

There are three reasons why I grow orchids. I love them! I'm lazy. And my mother gave them to me.

Loving orchids is not unusual. I have yet to meet the orchid grower who is coldly scientific. Even the commercial grower (and he is in the minority) will introduce them as a host presenting human friends. He'll turn a white-gowned blossom as he would touch the shoulder of a friend, and say, "This is Estelle Alba." Or indicate a gorgeous blossom as he might point out the child of a couple he loved. "Have you seen Renny Harold-Profusion?" he'll ask.

Nor have I an apology for my appreciation of the ease of orchid culture. I'll not deny that as one grows to know them better he spends more time with them each day. But they are hardy plants, demanding little, yet they give so much.

An orchid grower has no stubborn weeds to pull. No soil to till. No muddy feet, or thorn ripped clothing. No pruning 'til he's so exhausted he could die. The things he does are more like giving water to a thirsty child. Or seeing that he is warm enough, or not too cold. A famous author, recognizing this, has gained more followers for his corpulent luxury-loving character, Nero Wolfe, by allowing him to spend his mornings in his orchid house, than by his masterly technique of building up suspense.

My owning them is like an answer to a prayer. A prayer I'd thought was much too big a thing to ask, but prayed it anyway. I'd think, I can't have orchids. I'm a Navy wife. I'll find a way, (I always have) of piling children, dogs and cats, canary birds and goldfish in an already groaning car. But orchids? They're not me. They frighten me to death.

And then, not long before she died, my mother asked seriously if I would like to have her plants. After she was gone I built their house, borrowed a neighbor's truck, and brought them home. Every time the truck would bounce or lean against a curve I'd hold my breath and bite my lip. When they were untied, hoods removed from blossoms I'd refused to cut, and made at home on their new latticed bench, they showed less strain of travel than I did.

I remembered all the things my mother said, when armed with tooth brush, sprays and oils, she'd fuss among them long morning hours. She'd scrub them as she used to scrub my hands. She rubbed them down with oil until the leaves glistened. Move a plant to make it more comfortable, lift a pot to judge its water-weight, dig her finger into harsh osmunde to make sure it wasn't over-dry, or peek beneath to see if it was standing in a pool.

I would say, "I simply cannot do the things you do. I don't have your energy or green thumb."

She'd answer, "Anyone with average intelligence can learn. There's no such thing as being born with a green thumb. You only have to know what a plant wants, then give it that." Then she'd add, "They're just like people, asking only shelter, food and drink. Only difference I've ever found is they're fully clothed at birth."

"But," I'd say, "That brush, oil, spray and stuff. You even warm rain-water elbow temperature before you'll let them have a drink. Just look at the time you spend."

"Well, maybe so, But they'll grow and blossom for you without the care I give them. Orchids, like pups and babies, don't ask to become champions."

So many times since then I've opened up their door and stood enveloped in their overpowering fragrance. So many times I've marvelled at the range of colors. I've wondered how a plant with spiked and fibrous leaves, impossible to train, growing in unattractive waywardness, could cradle in its sheath a flower so exotic and delicate. Many times I've turned their faces up and gazed deep into their fragrant throats.

Some orchid lovers say the figure of a tiny white-robed nun is cloistered there. I prefer the echo of my mother's words, "Come see, Trianae, Ann Sander, Tethys (whom she loved so much), and Cordary. Come, look with me and you can see their souls."

What better place could a soul seek to dwell than in a fragrant orchid's heart? What could be more inspiring than a glimpse of such a home? Created by the Master Craftsman whose artistry in color and design has been unequalled since the world began?

To become acquainted with an orchid is to grow them.

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Expert Suggestions

A Symposium on Interesting Plant Combinations

Seeking to be helpful to gardeners who may be faced with the problem of selecting plants for an area that has not been satisfactory, or of planting a new section of the garden, or of giving a drab outlook a lift with some new combinations of plants or, better still, of getting the thrill of watching rare and unknown plants develop together, the Editor asked several San Diego Landscape Architects to discuss plant combinations, either new or old, that they have found effective. Not all could respond at this time. We are grateful to the five who found it possible to contribute.

* * *

The following trio is selected and described for us by our Dean of Landscape Architects, Roland S. Hoyt, with the same enthusiasm that permeates his book, ORNAMENTAL PLANTS FOR SUBTROPICAL REGIONS:

"Here are three very choice plants that are within considerable accord, adapting in form, harmonious in color, conformable to the same culture. Any combining of species in the landscape must consider form before color; whether in harmony or in contrast, it comes first. Culturally, the plants should come within a reasonable range for survival and maintenance. The following combination considers first, the manner in which natural shapes react to each other in growth and second, color with its timing.

Fuchsia arborescens, known to many as the Lilac Fuchsia, may be a distinct shrub as grown under rather open conditions of light and exposed to sun that will not burn. It will be tree-like to 15′, the branches recurving or drooping; but in sufficient shade and protected, it is quite malleable in adapting to its neighbors. It will develop considerable brush within, that must be covered off in front. Open heads of narrow long-tubed flowers range through light shades of purple or even pink, and winey red through January-April. Under good humidity and in moderate shade it is everblooming.

Candollea cuneiformis is a slumping shrub 3-4′, erect at first and rather prim, eventually lapsing, subsiding in mass, semi-sprawling, but still reaching up here and there to height indicated. The rich, clear yellow flowers, February-June, in pattern and likeness of a wild rose with petals turned in, will fit to and cover off against the fuchsia. The adaptation of the foliage masses of this pair will be irregular but attractive. This will want perfect drainage for longevity.

Hebe hulkeana, a total departure from the normal concept of the woody veronicas, is one of the most beautiful and distinctive of the species to be found growing in Southern California. The form is open, rather than dense as in other more common species, but still somewhat low-dome-like, to cover off against the candollea and modify any deeper shadow that might result, as against the fuchsia. It will grow 2-3′ in height, the arching stems set precisely to coarsely toothed leaves that are thick and succulent. The rather tight terminal clusters of flowers are a pure pale lilac to lavender over April-May. It is most unusual in that this flower and head is in such duplication of the oldfashioned lilac, in color and form, even to the subsidiary nubbin of bloom at the base of the truss and even in size, when grown in well conditioned soils.

These three shrubs form an integrated mass of foliage and obscured stem, with pleasing color that overlaps. It is color of singular purity in each case for an extra effectiveness and good harmony. Culture of the three will easily be brought in to the same procedure of maintenance and, if they are difficult to find in the nurseries . . . 'ask and ye shall receive.' The nurseryman of today is a merchandizer first and a grower next. He will not often propagate plants that must be promoted. Know what you want and ask for it."

* * *

Harold L. Curtiss, A. S. L. A., groups his selections by plant families, which may produce just the right answer for some gardener's question:

"Among the trees select *Jacaranda acutifolia,* for its striking mass of lavender-blue flowers, in combination with *Stenolobium stans,* for its golden yellow flowers, both blooming at approximately the same time.

For vines try *Solanum wendlandii,* Costa Rica Nightshade, for its great panicles of sky-blue flowers, in combination with *Clytostoma callistegiodes* (*Bignonia violacea*), Painted Trumpet Vine, for its handsome foliage and flowers, both of which help to clothe the less attractive stems and trunks of the Solanum when its deciduous

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outline becomes apparent.

Among shrubs choose *Duranta stenostachys,* Brazilian Sky Flower, for its rich green foliage and masses of light blue flowers, followed by pale yellow berries. Combine with *Sollya heterophylla,* Australian Bluebell, in the middle foreground, and *Hemerocallis flavum,* Lemon-yellow Daylily, as a facer. The latter, with its long blooming season, produces star-like clumps of yellow lily blooms which make a rich combination in front of the two good greens and their blue flowers in the background."

* * *

Roy H. Seifert, Landscape Architect, formerly with the Landscape Department of the City Schools, takes a broader view:

"Combinations of plants are one thing when planted in one bed. Planning the entire garden requires even more restraint. Plants must have some reason for being part of a whole. Singular groups may work well within themselves. They would not necessarily have any relationship to each other. Thus some plant or a very limited number of plants of similar texture (like two kinds of conifers) must serve as a common denominator.

I believe that the following combinations could all be used in the same garden because either the grasses or junipers are a part of each group with one exception —the gerbera and artemesia. The relationship is in repetition of color of foliage, as the gray of festuca and artemisia. Another reason for this combination is the addition of color to the garden. *One* area can afford to be different. Some variety turns a possibly dull garden into a garden of interest. But remember, keep it simple!

For sun try *Carissa grandiflora,* Natal Plum with *Phormium tenax,* Bronze flax, and a low-growing Rosemary whose blue-gray flowers pick up the color of a ground cover of *Festuca glauca.* Purple Pissardi Plum, *Prunus cerasifera,* looks well with *Juniperous lusitanica* (*tamariscifolia*), growing at its feet. *Artemesia albula,* Silver King combines nicely with *Gerbera jamesoni,* Transvaal Daisy. The narrow purple leaves of Dodonea are well contrasted with the silver leaves of the white bush morning glory, *Convolvulus cneorum,* faced down with *Miscanthus sinensis,* Chinese Silverglass.

For sun or part shade use the bronze *Phorium tenax,* with *Juniperous conferta,* the Shore Juniper. *Cortaderia selloana,* Pampas Grass, may have many varieties of Hemerocallis or Daylilies tucked around its skirts. *Fatsia* (*Aralia*) *japonica, Begonia semperflorens-cult.,* Indian Maid, *Liriope spicata,* the blue Lily Turf and *Opiopogen* (*Mondo*) *japonicum, the dwarf Lily Turf* are good together. *Bambusa multiplex,* Chinese Goddess, a feathery bamboo, gives an oriental atmosphere with *Acanthus mollis* and the grassy Dwarf Lily Turf."

* * *

Edward F. Roach, Landscape Architect, Instructor of Ornamental Horticulture in San Diego Junior College and a favorite contributor to *California Garden,* offers this list of plant combinations:

"The lucky gardener who has space in the sun to spare should try the handsome, tall and spreading Blue Atlas Cedar, *Cedrus atlantica glauca.* For ground cover use *Zoysia tenuifolia,* or Korean Velvet grass, inlaid with patches of *Festuca glauca,* the Blue Fescue grass, that repeats the tree color.

For partial shade the Wilson Holly, *Ilex altaclarensis,* is special in a large way—in leaf, fruit and height. The big heart-shaped leaves of *Bergenia cordifolia* will thrive in the shade and send up pink flowers in the spring.

Interesting in any exposure is the Strawberry Madrona, *Arbutus unedo,* with the fruit motif and color repeated in a strawberry ground cover of *Fragaria chilensis.* If possible get the new K 25 hybrid, which is more vigorous and more spreading, with larger leaves up to 6″ high.

There is an improved *Solanum rantonetti,* Paraguay Nightshade, that makes a very tall background with fine blue flowers. Combine with it a 6′ high dwarf plum, *Prunus cistena,* that has redder leaves than the old Pissard type. *Mahonia aquifolium,* with its shining Oregon Grape foliage, yellow flowers in spring, and purple fruit in fall, blends well with *Myrsine africana,* the African Box. Clumps of the grass-like *Mondo* (*Ophiopogon*) *japonicum,* make a nice accent, especially when the flower stalks bear blue bead-like fruits.

Pleasant combinations for north or east exposure are *Nandina domestica,* Heavenly Bamboo, used

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as a lacy foil for the thick green-to-red lacquer-like leaves of *Ternstroemia gymnanthera* (*japonica*). The red blooms of tall dark-leaved bedding begonias repeat the red of the nandina berries, while the fine-cut foliage of *Nierembergia hippomanica,* the Dwarf Cupflower, faces down the ensemble."

* * *

Because Rosecroft Gardens caters mostly to the needs of shade gardeners, Jerry Hunter has these suggestions for combinations where the entrance has a wide overhang. Some would be excellent in pots around a dark doorway:

Monstera delicosa (*Philodendron-pertusem*) grows high and handsome in shade and *Polystichum setosum,* the Holly Fern will fill in around the base. Try to find the rare red-flowering varieties of *Clivia miniata,* usually distinguished by very wide strap leaves, as a filler.

Get the greenleaf *Aucuba Japonica* in both sexes to obtain handsome red berries. Combined with the cups of scarlet fruit of the Bloodlily, *Haemanthus coccineus,* and the deep green of the grassy dwarf Lily Turf, *Opiopogon japonicum,* you have a striking picture at Christmas. The same ground cover is effective with *Dracaena deremensis warnecki,* the bamboo-like plant with white striped leaves.

Hedera Canariensis, var. Ghost Ivy, or *Agave attenuata,* are handsome with black lava rock and *Festuca glauca. Cordyline stricta,* the Australian Draceana is good behind a stone with the White Stripe Grass, *Acorus gramineus.*

To fill a large shade area in the grand manner let *Philodendron Eicherli x Selloum* take over the height. Prune *Nothopanax arboreus,* the Ginwood Tree with aralia-like leaves, into a large shrub and let *Fatshedera lizei* serve as a ground cover.

Ferns of San Diego County

ETHEL BAILEY HIGGINS

There are in San Diego County some twenty native ferns, offering varied forms from the tiny Lace Fern to the stately Woodwardia. Many of these that are tolerant of dry hot conditions are well suited to cultivation. There are others, like the Woodwardia, which is happiest with its feet in the water, and the Maidenhair, which also likes a moist condition.

The desirability of their use in our gardens is a matter of choice as some are much more attractive than others. I am sure most people would favor the Maidenhair. Of it we have two species. One, rather rare, of European origin, is *Adiantum capillus - veneris,* the Venus-hair Fern. The other, *Adiantum jordani* is quite common in the cismontane area.

The Chain Fern, so called because of the pattern of its sori, is an English fern with American variations, of which *Woodwardia fimbriatia* (*chamisso,* Brack.) is one. It is tall and rather stately, happy where there is running water. Its fronds are five or six feet long. It may grow in our gardens for, although it likes to be where there is water, it will submit to some degree of dryness. This adaptability is not an unmixed blessing for it has led to its exploitation.

The Brake or Bracken Fern, *Pteridum aquilinum pubescens,* sometimes called the Eagle Fern, is also one of European extraction. It is claimed that in a cross cut of the root stalk the image of an eagle may be seen, hence the name, aquilinum (eagle). There are many tales concerning this fern, and the folk-lore is rich in stories of magic. The young coiled fronds are edible and may be boiled for food. The older fronds are considered poisonous to cattle. It is too coarse to be attractive in cultivation, and is so common in some places in our mountains that it is almost a weed.

We have four small Lip Ferns, so named because the margins of the fronds are inrolled, covering the sori. The best of these, *Cheilanthes californica,* is known as the California Lace Fern. It is a charming little thing, plentiful in the cismontane area, but one must often search through the brush on hands and knees to find it hidden under a small stone. The sight of the little tufts of fronds is ample reward for the hunt. Other ferns of this type are not particularly attractive: *C. viscida* is known as the Sticky Lace Fern; *C. covillei* is a desert species; *C. clevelandi* was first found in this county and was named for Daniel Cleveland, one of the few charter members of the San Diego Natu-

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ral History Society, and an ardent amateur botanist.

Adelbert von Chamisso, the poet-botanist, who named our California poppy when he visited the state in 1816, collected a number of ferns, mostly around the San Francisco Bay area. They were described and named by Kaulfuss. When his name is attached, it indicates that Chamisso was the collector. Among the latter's finds is *Dryoptis arguta,* our Wood Fern. Well adapted to cultivation, it is found on shaded slopes in foothills and mountains. *Polystichum munitum* (Kaulf.) Presl., a fine Sword Fern of this group, is, in my opinion, superior to the one in cultivation.

In the same collection was *Polypodium californicum* Kaulf., that so-common fern throughout the coastal region. Its bright green fronds, plus the rather decorative pattern of its large brown sori, are very pretty when not dormant. Sometimes known as the Licorice Fern.

The Pellea, or Cliffbrake, has two representatives which lend themselves admirably to use in the rock garden. *Pellaea androedaefolia,* the Coffee Fern and *P. mucronata,* the Tea or Birdsfoot Fern (it was once known as *P. ornithorpus*), are both stiff ferns, with dark wiry stems and small evergreen leaflets.

The little Goldback Fern, like all the others, will be found where its roots seek moisture underneath a stone. Now known as *Pitrogramma triangularis,* it was listed by Kaulfuss as *Gymnogramme triangularis.* The fronds are triangular in shape and the backs are covered with a golden powder. Its variety *viscosa* has a silvery powder of waxey consistency that makes it stick to the paper on which it may be placed. A natural in the rock garden, it is one of the five which we may well claim as our own, since it was found in San Diego County by Chamisso, to whom we owe so much.

Asplenium vespertinum Maxon was first found in National City. It is a delicate little Spleenwort that grows in crevices. In the San Diego River gorge one may discover this fern in a rock fragment with its roots tightly wedged in a crack only a few inches over all.

Cystopteris fragilis (L.) Berhn., called the Brittle Fern, is a slender rather delicate fern from Europe. It is only occasional with us, in wet places in the mountains.

Three varieties of *Notholaena,* named Cloak Fern, for the cottony mass on the back of the fronds, are known here. *N. newberryi,* the Cotton Fern, and *N. parryi,* a desert dweller, are fairly common in our cismontane area. *N. californica* is found less frequently. They were all named by Daniel C. Eaton, who wrote about them in NORTH AMERICAN FERNS. This book, whose colored illustrations are very helpful, is available in the library of the Natural History Society, in Balboa Park.

LEAVES

(Continued from Page 5)

one of us—cordial and simple and natural.' The prize Californiac I heard was from a woman-Californiac in Europe: 'I saw nothing in Italy,' she said, 'to compare with the Italian quarter of San Francisco' . . . California has a pageant for breakfast, a fiesta for luncheon, and a carnival for dinner!"

Henry looked up when he had finished. He smiled the irresistible smile.

"Let's see 'Trouble with Harry' tonight and go sentimental about Fall in New England," he said as if it were a brand new idea all his own.

I stood up, pulled Henry to his feet, and together we started off to find the girls!

A BOOK IN THE HAND

ADA MCLOUTH

SHADY GARDENS: HOW TO PLAN AND GROW THEM, by Emily Seaber Parcher. *New York, Prentice-Hall, 1955. $4.95*

Mrs. Parcher made a choice. It is a choice that confronts many: whether to have flowers, luxuriant in the sun, with few or no trees; or to look into shady dells under trees, lightened with the glimmer of pale and scattered blooms. Mrs. Parcher chose trees.

Woods are growing scarce, says the author, but some of the pleasure of remembered wanderings in woodlands may be recaptured by purchasing and planting, in a special corner of the garden, native wild plants. Patience is required to find the right spot for a difficult plant, but moving things about is Mrs. Parcher's idea of the fun of gardening.

The book is divided into three parts: Flowers in the Shade; Foliage and Woody Plants; Planning and Maintaining . . . In this thorough treatment of the subject she carefully defines the degrees of shade as dense, light and spotted and indicates the sun tolerance of the listed plants.

Though relating to New England where she lives and works in her garden, many plants are familiar to Californians. Cross-references and an excellent index make it a handy reference book.

This is a rewarding book to read, a happy one to own, with its many photographs of plants, woodland and garden subjects, shady lawns and enticing paths.

BEHIND THE BY-LINES

You can almost hear the strum of the autumn wind in the branches of the eucalyptus trees on our cover picture, the work of Richard B. Dixon, of Fallbrook. Mr. Dixon spent his early days in Del Mar Later he served all through World War II as an aviator, leaving the service as a Colonel in the U.S.A. Air Force. Like his father, the late L. L. Dixon, whose photograph of stone mountains in "The Brave Flowers" was so much admired on our Spring cover, "Rick" has made an artistic success of his camera hobby.

In a "Landscape for Kate Sessions," Jane Minshall, Landscape Architect for the City Schools, took advantage of an opportunity to pay an evergreen tribute to K.O.S., often called the "Mother of San Diego Parks," in a way that would have been most pleasing to the Garden Lady herself. It is fitting that this work was done by another talented woman horticulturist who brought a wealth of loving interest and expert knowledge to bear upon her assignment.

Five years ago "Duke" Marston, now a Sales Engineer in the San Diego Office of General Electric, came to San Diego and found a home in a new subdivision, with the usual barren streets. Coming from Pennsylvania, where a love of beautiful trees is inborn, he did something about it. To make it easy for others to improve their surroundings, he tells all in "Trees Make the Subdivision."

Winifred Davidson, our able local historian, keeps our plant records straight in the "Pioneer Pepper Tree."

"To have one is to want all," is implied by a new contributor, Ruth C. Miller, in "Why I Grow Orchids." We are glad that she and her husband, a retired Navy Chaplain, have chosen San Diego for their home port.

EDITORIAL BOUQUETS

The Del Mar Fair offered its usual horticultural treat. Our affiliate, The San Diego Fuchsia Society, hung up a real record in pulling down two blue ribbons on two full-sized exhibits, one of a Fuchsia Garden and the other of Hanging Baskets. Anyone who has attempted to carry pots of tender, brittle fuchsias in full flower, even across the garden, let alone twenty-five miles up the coast, and still have them full of flouncing, saucy-skirted blooms, will appreciate the remarkable job of engineering accomplished by Mrs. Clayton Lee, the president, and her excellent committee.

We were also proud of another affiliate, the San Diego Rose Society, who maintained a small flower show of cut roses and arrangements during the Del Mar Fair, in order to display top quality blooms. A member was always in attendance to explain rose culture. A large silver bowl of choice roses honored the memory of Forrest Hieatt.

It was a pleasure to see begonias again in the winning entry by the Eva Kenworthy Gray Begonia Society. The simplicity of the Front Entrance planting by Bill Buerger was given top approval by the judges. They also favored the nice flow of plants, grass plots and paving in Blair Burkhardt's Patio Garden. Roy Seifert's clever interplay of architectural accessories and plants, in a patio corner should grace a magazine cover.

The Nurseries, Growers and Florists, bless them! What fine exhibits they always give us, what a load they carry in all the flower shows. How patient they are with our endless questions and perhaps a fifty-cent purchase. How bare our gardens and our lives would be without them. Wasn't the Leucadia Nursery exhibit of plants with red foliage and flowers refreshingly different?

The La Mesa Festival de las Flores was a lively show with a Fiesta flourish. It had the best Show Schedule we have seen for some time. Mrs. Sheldon Thatcher and her committee are to be highly commended. Tucked in a corner among the potted plants was a collection of seven little wild ferns entered by Mrs. J. McKinney, of Jamul. They would have been perfect illustrations for Mrs. Higgins' article in this issue.

Speaking of that lady, we would send her a crown of the rarest wild flowers if we knew where to find them, as a token of appreciation of her work for this magazine and of her ninetieth year in action. The Natural History Museum gave her a big party on her August birthday. She tells us that when she tendered her resignation as Curator of Botany, it was not only refused, but the salary was raised and the hours shortened. A salute to her Board of Directors!

And now another kind of a bouquet — a final wreath for a personal friend of the San Diego Floral Association, Evelyn Lawson Cavanee. Raised in San Diego, she gave up a promising art career to live in Chicago, where she later met her husband. She always had a home in San Diego. When she finally settled here with her family, her creative mind and hand found an outlet in the restoration of the famous Bernards Nursery in Mission Valley, expanding it far beyond the dreams of its original owners. Her many friends in the Floral Association will miss her witty talks and her cooperative spirit.

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Garden Chores

ADA PERRY

It's my hope that this article will be particularly helpful and at the end of it, I will tell you the reason. Writing it isn't easy. Down at the nursery where I work, we have been greatly bereaved.

There are important things to do in fall, and more to plan for in January and February.

One of the musts with most people is the lawn and of course you've heard of the crabgrass seed killer that's making such an advertising splash in our big national pond of advertising splashers. And isn't it something how hard they have to splash to gain attention? Anyway, I'm not going to hurry you into buying it. But I am going to hurry you into inquiring about it with your very first September purchases in the nursery line.

You'll be looking up sweet pea seed, you'll be asking about stock and snapdragon and pansy plants. All those gorgeous flowers belong with the fall, you know. And you'll be asking about iris and ranunculus and tulips and daffodils and maybe even about *Leucojum vernum* bulbs, Snowflakes to you. So just turn around to the counter where the unromantic garden items are dispensed and find out just when you want to apply your crabgrass seed killer and just what you ought to spend to make the job worth doing. I don't say you should go ahead and buy it with your first inquiry. But I do say to find out what you want to do about it early. So you won't have to rush in some time, maybe too late, and just half get the picture. And spend some money that won't be well spent. There are plenty of factors working against most of our garden helps and you don't have to add to them with bad timing. Do you? There, I feel better after getting tough about the crabgrass problem.

A number of people noticed shot-hole disease in their peaches, apricots and plums this summer. The easiest way for me to describe it is to say that the leaves have cigarette burns in them. That is, there are holes with brown edges around them throughout the foliage. Of course, beetles and various caterpillar worms will perforate fruit tree foliage in late spring and summer and you use a rattling good insecticide which will also discourage thrips, as thrips are also usually present, willing and able. But the "shot holes" look just like we've said and indicate a fungus disease, not insects. Furthermore, you must spray for this disease by November first or not later than December 15. You use a bordeaux spray if you have apricots or a lime sulphur spray if you have no apricots and prefer lime sulphur. Apricots do not prefer lime sulphur, it seems. This shot-hole disease is one reason why you prune off dead, gummy fruiting twigs and burn them. Like as not it has caused them to die, as it attacks twig wood as well as leaves.

If you are worried about leaves still being on your trees when you give them this early spraying, remember their work is done for the year and they'll be falling in a few weeks.

January is the time for planting new trees in the leaf-shedding fruits and down our way we are pleased to note that our peach favorite, Ventura, is rolling up a high all-around score. Of course, we'll have to admit that our customers have pointed the way, here. They've gone for Ventura ever since we've had it. And now, in a new leaflet, we see what they seem to know instinctively. Ventura is earlier than Bonita and Rubidoux, it is free from bitterness which cannot be claimed of Bonita and it is more suited to lower altitudes than Rubidoux.

For goodness sakes, get well-sized deciduous fruit trees when you buy. You don't have to carry home a lot of dirt with them, a good grade doesn't weigh you down. You can save yourself a year's time, and a sorry lesson, if you plant a good tree instead of a pipsqueak.

As for planting fruit trees which do not shed their leaves, let us carry on with the dwarf citrus. They are really becoming available in good quantity and good quality. Ask to look over the grower's novel suggestions on planting them where the drainage is poor. There are more and more citrus varieties becoming available in the dwarfs and they are much more fun to grow than that little old profuse dwarf Meyer lemon from cuttings, don't you think? You can plant dwarf citrus all winter unless you live in a cold spot. Then they'd better be planted in spring so they'll be strong by next winter.

A very fine nurserywoman is now one with yesterday's beautiful roses. It is a very fitting thing when a woman enters the plant nursery business and Evelyn L. Cavenee spent the final years of her life between 1947 and 1956 perpetuating the Mission Valley Nursery. Gardens all over the county are filled with the roses which were borne out of her gates. Every one loves roses and so she provided something of great value to her customers. To her employees she also provided something of great value, the opportunity to work with plants. And so good and precious things resulted because a woman did enter a business with these possibilities. Our lives benefited because of her, and we miss her very much.

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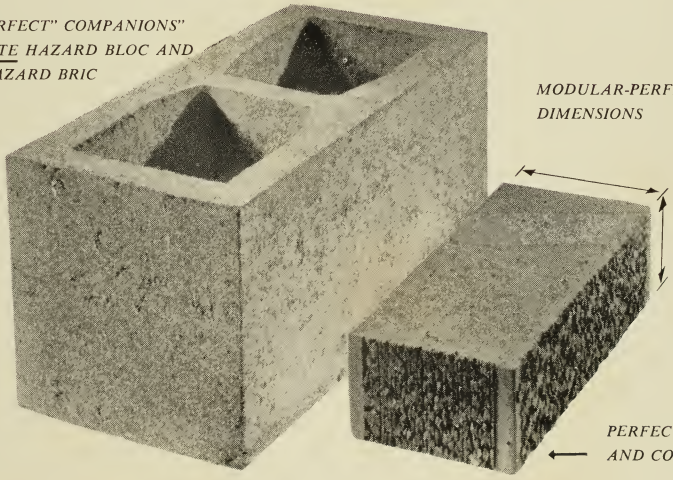

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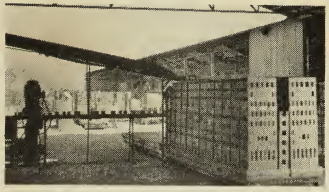

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Brick making is an ancient art. Methods have changed little through the years. Now modern mechanical genius has developed a far better way. Hazard Bric, like Hazard Bloc, is precision-made completely by automatic machinery. The amazing new Hazard brick kiln receives raw clay at one end and delivers finished, baked brick out the other—in one *continuous operation*. Bricks made by old fashioned methods vary in size and quality. Modern Hazard Bric is always uniform, with exact dimensions, clean edges, delicately scratched texture and beautiful, dark red color. For better building, insist on Hazard Bric, the precision brick.

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